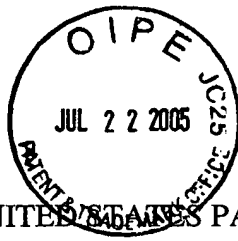


Docket No. 87359.1960  
Application No. 10/617,702  
Customer No. 30734



JPW

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant in re of:	)	
James BAICH, <i>et al.</i>	)	Group Art Unit: 3679
	)	
Serial No. 10/617,702	)	Examiner: David BOCHNA
	)	
Filed: July 14, 2003	)	Confirmation No. 3730

For: PIPE CONNECTING METHOD AND APPARATUS

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

**Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the nonfinal Office Action mailed April 26, 2005, to which a response is due without an extension of time by July 26, 2005. In view of the following amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections and allow all claims pending in the application.

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 7 of this paper.